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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Deterioration of the Position of the  
Independent Farmer/Farming

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1. [redacted] farming conditions in the Nowy Tomysl district. The village had consisted nearly exclusively of 5 - to 12 hectare acreage farms, most of them having been established in 1936-37. The land and soil in this district is rather poor, the main farming products being potatoes and rye. The region has no forests at all and very few meadows. [redacted] farm comprising 12.5 hectares, the special agricultural commis- sion classified the soil quality as in 1937: six hectares land of 3rd cate- gory and 6.5 hectares land of 4th category. 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM
2. "The assessment of the farm's value and the assessment of taxes to be paid by the farmer is done on the basis of this commission's classification.
3. "In 1947 the Communist authorities carried out the so-called 'reclassification' of farm land, starting with farms exceeding five hectares in acreage. [redacted] soil was categorized thereafter as: 50X1-HUM 50X1-HUM
  - 6 hectare - Category No 1 - Wheat and best soil;
  - 4 hectare - Category No 2 - Rye and potato soil;
  - 2 hectare - Category No 5 - Sandy soil;
  - 2 hectare - Category No 5 - Untillable soil.
4. "The reclassification was taken as a basis for changing the tax assessment, first of all; secondly, the delivery quotas to be supplied to the state were fixed on the basis of these categories; and thirdly, the kind of products that could be cultivated were laid down in the 'contracting system' with the state.

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5. The 'contracting system' provided for livestock breeding as well as the cultivation of plants. Apart from the traditional cultivation of sugar beets or hops, the farmer was compelled to cultivate certain prescribed numbers of special products like, for example, poppy, tobacco and fibrous plants. Here it is worth while observing that within the contracting system for special cultures, the farmer was given a certain elasticity. He could choose the kind of cultivation under one condition: That he prove the necessity for this chosen product by reason of the specific nature of his farm. In comparison to the official assessment [redacted] classified [redacted] farm as follows:

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Wheat and beet soil	-	1.5 hectare
Rye and potato soil	-	0.75 hectares
Soil for fodder products	-	1.5 hectare
Meadowland	-	2.0 hectare
Untillable soil	-	0.75 hectare (drainage system)

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6. Lack of Fertilizer: Since 1940 individual farmers holding more than ten hectares of land had practically no opportunity to purchase the necessary fertilizers. Through the agricultural cooperatives, fertilizers were distributed to the kolkhozes and only a very restricted quantity was allotted to small land-holders. All PCR's (state-owned farms) received the quantities they demanded. Only the farmers of larger individual tracts were obliged to begin cultivation of some special plants considered vital by the state (poppy, tobacco, antipose plants, etc.), were they allocated small fertilizer quantities. In addition large farm-holders contracting for the production of sugar beets could receive certain small quantities of fertilizing products. [redacted] the figure of at least two tons of various kinds of fertilizers used [redacted] before World War II.

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is a constant decrease in the number of landless wage laborers. As they are only able to work short seasons, farm laborers are unable to support themselves with such work the year around. Therefore, those staying in the country are in the majority aged people whose working efficiency is very much reduced. Along with that, the industrialization, drive is driving practically all the country labor from villages to the towns and industrial centers. Therefore, only in rare cases do the farmer's children remain to work on their parents' farms. This, badly hits those cultivations needing manual labor, such as sugar beets, cattle breeding, etc.

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1953 was a better crop year for potatoes. From one hectare the result was over 450q.

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Breeding

9. [redacted] livestock breeding, comparing pre-World War II times and the year 1948, which may be considered as being an almost normal period of farming:

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	1939	1948	1953
a. Horses	4	4	2
Field horses	3	3	2
Foals	1	1	-
b. Horn cattle	13	12	5
Milk cows	8	8	4
Heifers	3	3	-
Calves	2	2	-
Bullocks	2	2	-
c. Swine (total)	approx. 40	approx. 40	13
d. Sheep (total)	-	2	10

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10. "The above shows important changes in breeding conditions during the last years. Up to 1948 the quantity as well as the quality of the livestock was almost the same as before World War II. In 1952-53 the number of livestock decreased to less than 50 per cent of the prewar total. It can be observed at the same time that the livestock held by the farmer was changing. This was a consequence of advantages offered by holding certain species of breedings. So, for example [redacted] farming comprised of sheep breeding. This has to be explained by the fact that after 1948 farmers could only obtain textiles or net wool in exchange for raw wool. Now again, after the abolition of these regulations and along with the better supply of textile materials, it can well be expected [redacted] that many farmers will give up sheep-breeding because of very limited rentability. [redacted] very few of those farmers will probably accept the state offer to sell their sheep to it. The prices paid are much too low; for one sheep the state is offering the farmer from 150 to 200 zlotys. When selling it as meat, the farmer may realize the following income:

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a. Meat approximately 25 kilos at approximately 15 zlotys	375 zlotys
b. tallow approx 10 kilos at approx 30 zlotys	300 "
c. skin with wool	100 zlotys
approx total	775 zlotys

11. [redacted] the above example throws good light on some completely un-understandable state measures. Another example of the nuisance policy is the change in the breeding. Horse breeding is being neglected and bullocks are placed on farms for labor. When taking into consideration the economic stabilization of the state horse farms, those horses raised and bred by individual farmers have very little chance of being sold for the so-called 'remonty' in Poland (a term denoting the yearly purchase of horses by military authorities for the improvement of the army horse pool).

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12. [redacted] the trend of using horses in the army is reducing day by day. On the other hand, the progressing mechanization of agriculture (on kolkhozes and sovkhoses) is gradually eliminating the horsepower from numerous fields of the agricultural economy. Practically only the owner of a larger agricultural farm is showing up as a horse purchaser. These changes are regulating horse breeding. Official information published in December 1953 gives the actual number of horses as being approximately 2 720,000 (13 horses per 100 hectares of soil exploited by agriculture) as against 3,916,000 in 1939 (which was 15.3 horses per 100 hectares). In the informant's opinion horse breeding shows a further tendency toward decrease. As an example, he stated the neglect of foal breeding by independent farmers.

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Other Incomes in Independent Farms or Indirect Advantages

13. "Among the more important items bringing either direct or indirect income for the individual farmer [redacted]

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a. Hens, ducks, geese - mostly consumed by the producers themselves and to a certain degree yielding some income in cash (after delivery of the compulsory quota of 50 per cent of the eggs, the rest remains for personal use or for sale).

b. Fruit and vegetables - merely for own consumption;

c. Sheep wool delivered to the state brings the following profits:

Washed wool of a length of six cms	at least 90 zlotys per kilo
"Short" washed wool	around 30 zlotys per 1 kilo

(on a farm the shearing of one sheep yields 2.5 kilos of washed wool, while the shearing of one ram brings a yield of four kilos of washed wool).

14. "The delivery to the state-run collecting points (usually agricultural cooperatives) up to 1953 entitled the farmer in turn to buy:

a. Woollen textiles for the total amount received for his wool;

b. Linen material for 40 per cent of the received amount.

15. "Meadows and fodder plants are meant for the farmer's own use. Hay is not sold by the farmers; on the contrary, they usually buy hay, additionally, from the meadows administrated by the state. In such a case, they are obliged to collect the hay by themselves. Prices for such hay range from 140 to 240 zlotys per one hectare of meadow. Transportation is to be paid by the farmer. Usually the meadows are located at quite some distance. For example, the farmers of the Poznan district used to mow state meadows as far away as the Gdansk district.

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31. "The total loss on account of the compulsory quota system is as follows:

According to free market, value of goods	53,435
obtained through state compulsory quotas	13,571
Less	39,864

32. "The only way an individual farmer could make up for such considerable losses was for him to seek certain commodities in return for his delivery quotas. For example, the depicted individual farm received for its delivered pig quota approximately 3.5 tons of coal at the official price of 323 zlotys per one ton. The free market coal price (it should be called, according to the informant, rather a black market price) amounted to around 600 zlotys per one ton meaning a 'saving' on his pig delivery of about one thousand zlotys, composed as follows:

Official price	1,125 zlotys
Black market price	2,100 zlotys

Thereby saving approximately one thousand zlotys.

33. "Other commodities that could be obtained at official prices are chemical fertilizers, small quantities of fire wood and special fodder items, such as, for example, fish flour, fodder chalk and the like.

34. "It must, however, be remembered that all of these commodities were only distributed in very limited quantities.

the official distribution covered not more than 50 per cent of its needs.

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35. "When looking at the prices paid for delivery quotas in comparison to the prices paid for distributed commodities, one arrives at more examples for the far-reaching exploitation of the individual farmers by the state. For example, each farmer has the right to buy certain quantities of 'special food' of 'inita' (which is grain in rather crushed condition not ground). In the productive process of 'inita' there are no wastes at all. While the individual farmer is only receives 2 zlotys per one quintal of barley, he is forced at the same time to pay 160 zlotys per one quintal of 'inita.'

36. "Still more unjust is the exploitation in the delivery of meat. The state pay approximately 5.40 zlotys for one kilo of live hog (including premium). (The average price is fixed by classification of the pigs, from category one to ten, according to meat quality and fat content.)

37. "Simultaneously the average price of good pork in state-run shops is 32 zlotys per kilo; the price for sausage or ham is 60 zlotys per one kilo.

38. "The following calculations are worth stating:

a. Ordinarily, the maximum waste from pigs in unusable scraps does not exceed 12 per cent of their weight;

b. Other scraps, such as blood, bowels, and hog's hair, have very often high value; a considerable portion of the bones is sold at meat prices;

c. The average weight of good fat pigs (others are not accepted by the collecting points) fluctuates from 100 to 120 kilos, yielding 85 to 105 kilos of meat. From this quantity at least 60 to 80 kilos are good quality meat (including lard);

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41. When selling the whole quantity as raw meat and paying from 1.40 to 6.50 zlotys per one kilo, the state receives 1.20 to 2.72 zlotys; for manufacturing sausage and meat at least 300 additional zlotys are obtained (when considering the price of the lowest category of product-quality rating at 12 zlotys per one kilo).
42. "This calculation demonstrates that the state's commissio (called 'Marzut,' a term used at present in the Communist system to define the difference between the purchasing and selling price) amounts for pork to at least 300 per cent.
43. "Every year in February the quantity of compulsory quotas is estimated. Theoretically, assessments are based on incomes and likewise the authorities take into consideration the farm acreage which is classified into one of the following categories:
- 'A' category - farms of five hectares' acreage of 'worst' [sic] soil quality;
  - 'B' category - farms over five hectares' acreage of 'better' quality soil;
  - 'C' and 'D' refer to farms of five to ten hectares' acreage of 'better' or 'worse' farmland;

The next categories are for the 'kulaks' farms.

41. [redacted] the state has full discretion in the assessment of compulsory quotas. There are many cases, however, where farmers, in line with such assessments, are under obligation to supply commodities not even produced on their farms. In such cases, the farmers have the right to appeal to higher levels (on county or even district level) but it is weary and troublesome and lasts over several months.
42. "To avoid the expense and lengthy procedures, many farmers simply buy up the required commodity and deliver it to the collecting points as self-produced. [redacted] periods when the quantity estimates for the compulsory quotas are fixed. Immediately after harvest the soil is prepared for the next year. Winter production plans by the state are often too late, particularly when dealing with special crops for which the soil needs special preparation.

#### Taxes and Dues

43. "Another worry of the farmers are taxes, dues and insurance contributions. With the introduction of compulsory quotas, insurance became an important factor. All contracted commodities are now to be insured.
44. "For example, a farmer who has not insured his pigs would be obliged to pay off to the state either in natural commodities or in cash indemnity if the pigs died during breeding time. A farm with 12.5 hectares' acreage
- a. Land tax of about 11,400 zlotys; and
  - b. Insurance taxes of approximately 2,100 zlotys.
45. "In 1952 the tax included contributions for the so-called 'Agriculture Saving Fund' (Fundusz Oszczednosci Rolnictwa) but this has been liquidated. According to regulations, farmers could obtain an investment credit in the amount of their registered payments. The liquidation of the FOR was arranged by the authorities without much aid. Although [redacted]

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[ ] the contributions paid by farmers had to be returned - and farmers were even summoned from time to time to present their bank books - this plan as yet has not been put into practice. It must be added that the majority of contributions had been paid before the revaluation of the zloty and consequently it is very difficult to estimate the actual value. The Agriculture Saving Bank itself suffered great losses when the farmers repaid their credits in the devalued zlotys.

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46. "Agricultural taxes are due for payment on instalment rates, namely, in January, February, May, August, September, and November.

Compulsory Work ('Szarwark')

47. "Another burden imposed on the farmer is the compulsory work he has to perform without being paid on behalf of his settlement and his community.

- (a) For the settlement: Manual work (pieszy szarwark) - 26 days during the year at 12 zlotys per day.

Cart with horse - six days during the year at 74 zlotys per day.

The peculiarity of this kind of burden is that it can only be worked off partly, up to the amount of 250 zlotys. For the rest, the farmer has to pay in cash. Consequently, he pays each year around 500 zlotys for his settlement.

- (b) For the community: The farmer has to report to work with one horse and a cart (farms with one horse for six days per year) farms with two horses or more for sixteen days per year). This kind of work is evaluated at 72 zlotys per day. This work has to be completely carried out. If a farmer does not report to this ordered work, he has to pay an extra fine of 500 zlotys and additionally a compensation of 150 zlotys for each day not worked. This high penalty puts the farmer under pressure to appear for this compulsory work.

48. "Among the work to be performed by farmers are first line repair and conservation of highways, hauling of wood from the forests or transporting construction material to the state investment places. In addition, drainage and irrigation work have to be performed. The latter under the Communists administration is called 'irrigation activity'.

49. "As a result, the compulsory and nonpaid work adds additional burdens to farm work in Poland. A 12½ hectare farm 'pays' yearly:

For the settlement	765 zlotys
For the community	1,152 "
	<hr/> 1,908 zlotys

50. "Altogether the burdens on a farm per year are as follows:

(a) Loss by the compulsory quota system	39,864 zlotys
(b) Taxes and insurance	13,500 "
(c) Compulsory work	1,908 "
	<hr/> 55,272 zlotys

51. "All these imposts are only slightly compensated for by the chance offered to the farmer of buying some merchandise from state warehouses. This compensation means that such merchandise can otherwise not be bought at all - or may only be purchased on the black market at very high prices - for example, coal or fertilizers - or that prices for such commodities are lower than on the free market."

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